

# THE SPARK GAP

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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MARCH 2004



## SEVERE WEATHER SPOTTER CLASS

A severe weather spotter class will be offered on Monday April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, located at the EOC in the Johnson County Law Enforcement Center in Franklin. Talk-in will be on the 146.835 (pl 141.5) repeater.

All are encouraged to attend this valuable training even if you had it before. The National Weather Service will be conducting the training class.

Please mark this date on your calendar to attend.

..... N9SIU

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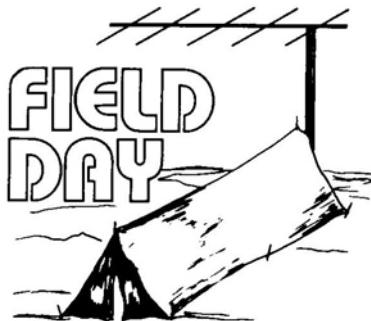
## TECH CLASSES FORMING

The 2004 MARC Technician License class will be going by the book when it meets starting Tuesday March 23rd. In fact, the ham radio wannabees will be passing hundreds of books to reach the radio classroom at the Greenwood Public Library on south Meridian Street. According to Ernest Clark-KB9SKI, pre-registration for the class is going well. Local newspapers, radio and TV stations have been alerted to the annual spring class. The ten week course will meet at 7 p.m. each week for a comprehensive 90 course in amateur radio basics.

Ernest Clark will head up the teaching staff. Long time amateur radio license instructor Dave Wendt-KA9OOH, has retired from the teaching lectern. Dave elmered dozens of new Novice and Technician class amateurs over the past 20 years.

It's not too late to register someone you know for this years class. The ARRL workbook will be used. The club price is \$15 dollars. Purchased on-line from ARRL they will run \$20 dollars.

Help make someone you know "radio active" and get them signed up today for the 2004 MARC Technician class. -w8ish



## ***FIELD DAY 2004 COMING FAST***

Plans for the multi-county 2004 Field Day are beginning to solidify. MARC FD chairman JR Osborne-KB9HSE has reserved the south meeting room at the Johnson county Park office in Camp Atterbury. This is the same location, minus the kitchen facilities, we have used over the past several years.

Amateur radio operators from over a dozen central Indiana counties are expected to participate in the Super Field Day. Last year was the first time hams from various counties pooled their collective talent to create an outstanding Field Day event in Hendricks county.

Several spots have been reserved at the adjacent RV camp ground for club members and guest amateur radio operators to park their motor homes. Many are expected to set up antennas and operate from the camp ground. The two sites are within 1000 feet and qualify as one FD location.

Plans for food and special ceremonies are being worked out. JR still needs volunteers to help coordinate the weekend events. Contact him at 565-3922 or at [Doublegoofballs@wmconnect.com](mailto:Doublegoofballs@wmconnect.com). With your help we can make Field Day 2004 one of the best. - w8ish

## **MARC YOUR CALENDAR**

Busy spring and summer full of club activities and public service.

- MARCH 17 Club Tour of WISH TV Studios
  - MARCH 23 MARC Technician license class starts, 7PM Greenwood Library (8 weeks)
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  - APRIL 12 Severe WX spotter training 7PM EOC
  - JUNE 12 Strawberry Festival White River Township Fire Dept.  
Ham Radio Demo
  - JUNE 26 Greenwood Fire Department Health and Safety Fair  
Ham radio demo
  - JUNE 26 & 27 FIELD DAY 2004 Camp Atterbury
  - AUGUST 7 Flat Rock Run 7K marathon
  - SEPT. 25 Greenwood Marching Band Invitational
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**COLUMBUS HAMFEST  
MARCH 27,2004  
AT THE  
BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY  
FAIR GROUNDS  
TALK-IN  
146.790 –**

**SEE YOU THERE!!!!**

## Mike Palmer, N9FEB February MARC Meeting Featured Speaker



Mike Palmer-N9FEB explains the VARSAT program to club members. Palmer is Marion county ARES director. He developed the (volunteer amateur radio search assistance team) to help local authorities with manpower and communications during emergency search events.

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**INARRL BULLETIN 006-2004  
10:32 EST 03/13/2004 de KB9BVN**

## **Severe Weather Preparedness Week**

Governor Joseph Kernan has proclaimed the week of March 14th through March 20th as Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Indiana. The National Weather Service in conjunction with the Indiana State Police, the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency, the Indiana Department of Education, the Broadcast Media and amateur radio operators will conduct a statewide tornado exercise on Wednesday March 17th .

There will be two drills initiated on March 17<sup>th</sup> this year by the National Weather Service. The first drill will be conducted between 2:00pm and 2:30pm and the second drill between 7:00pm and 7:30pm.

Should actual severe weather be a threat on March 17th, the test will be held on March 18th. Both drills will be initiated by a Test Tornado Warning announcement. However this year the National Weather Service will issue a Test Tornado Watch message prior to the Warning announcement.

Please DO NOT initiate local drill procedures when the Test Tornado Watch is issued. Only initiate your operations when the Test Tornado Warning announcement is issued.

The goal of Severe Weather Preparedness Week is to remind Hoosiers of all ages to the hazards that severe thunderstorms and tornadoes can bring to the State of Indiana. Indiana averages 20 tornadoes and 4 tornado related fatalities each year. Severe weather can occur at anytime during the year.

The Central Indiana SKYWARN Association urges all amateur radio operators, in central Indiana, to participate in their local county severe weather net the day of the drill. The 146.97 / 442.65 MHz and 444.350 linked repeater system in Farmersburg, in association with amateur radio station W9NWS, will coordinate the communications test net for amateur radio operations in central Indiana.

Please make plans to participate in these test sessions as an opportunity to familiar yourself with your local county SKYWARN operation.

For more information on this topic and other related information, please visit the following Web sites:

<http://www.w9nws.org>    <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ind>

We would like to thank the Indianapolis Carmel Experimenters group for the use of their repeater system:

<http://www.w9ice.com>

We would also like to thank the Otter Creek Amateur Radio club for the use of their 444.35 repeater in Farmersburg, Indiana: <http://www.nc9u.org>

thanks and 73,

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Central Indiana SKYWARN Association, Inc.  
EC for Central Indiana SKYWARN

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Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets at 0800 EST the third Saturday of each month at the Johnson County Law Enforcement Center in the Emergency Operations Center. All hams are encouraged to attend this meeting and VE testing is held January through November after the meeting has ended.

MARC operates the 146.835 MHz (151.4 PL) repeater and all hams are welcome to use it.

For more information please visit our club web page at: <http://www.midstatehams.org>

